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Second World Assembly on Ageing

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**General exchange of views**

**Political Declaration and International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002**

## Note verbale dated 9 April 2002 from the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to convey the official translation of a letter addressed to the participants of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, signed by Mr. Heydar Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were to be circulated as a document of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, being held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002.

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## Annex to the note verbale dated 9 April 2002 from the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Participants of the Second World Assembly on Ageing,

Let me herewith greet you all sincerely and wish success to the work of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, an important event dedicated to one of the topical problems of our time — ageing.

Throughout the centuries the Azerbaijani nation, according to its historical traditions and national features, has respected the elderly people, has taken care of them and appreciated their role as significant genetic resources in protecting spiritual values and transmitting them to the next generations. The problems of elderly people are in the focus of attention of the society and Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The declaration of 1999 as the "International Year of Elderly People" by the United Nations can be estimated as a noteworthy demonstration of the concern shown for elderly people. This initiative was supported by the Republic of Azerbaijan.

A number of activities dedicated to the "International Year of Elderly People" were held throughout the country in 1999. The significance of commemoration of the "Year of Elderly People" was widely discussed by the mass media outlets of Azerbaijan, the role of the elderly people was highly appreciated and concrete measures were taken to improve their living standards.

As a logical follow-up to those measures, in 2001, the Parliament of Azerbaijan passed a law on social security of elderly people, the provisions of which are being successfully implemented.

However, during the last 10 years it has not been possible, due to a number of objective reasons, to fully implement the scheduled projects. The most important reason is the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against Azerbaijan, which resulted in the occupation of 20 per cent of the Azerbaijani territories and the emergence of more than one million refugees and internally displaced persons.

I believe that the Second World Assembly on Ageing will play a vital role in solving the problems related to ageing. I have no doubts that the Plan of Action to be adopted at the Assembly will become a useful basis for States to elaborate their strategies and to take relevant measures in this regard.

(*Signed*) Heydar **Aliyev**
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan